Guide to Collection

MacKay, Ralph E., Collector

Ralph E. MacKay Collection, 1903-1910

PCA 159

2 folders (61 photographs + papers) Revised: 5/15/2003

ACQUISITION: The photographs in this collection were produced from negatives donated by Ralph MacKay to the Historical Library. The photographs were given to MacKay by Lewis A. Levensaler. The photographs were mostly taken by Louis A. Levensaler and Charles Lighthall.

ACCESS: The photographs may be viewed, however, the images may not be photocopied.

COPYRIGHT: Request for permission to publish or reproduce material from the collection should be discussed with the Librarian. Reproduction of the photographs was restricted until 1987.

PROCESSING: The photographs were numbered and housed in Mylar.
SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

Images include mining activity around Kennecott, Copper River, Prince William Sound, Valdez and Kodiak. Included are miners, geologists, mining companies and activity and the Fourth of July celebration in Valdez in 1908.

The collection includes excerpts of letters from Levensaler to MacKay written over a period from 1955 to 1971, recounting early mining-related history of Kennecott from his own experience and various sources. Early Alaskan miners and geologists are mentioned in the letters. Levensaler was one of the first members of the Anaconda Geological group in addition to prospecting on his own.

The collection also includes a copy of W.E. Dunkle’s paper, “Economic Geology and History of the Copper River District, Alaska” and a the transcription of a 1959 interview with Levensaler conducted by Henry Carlisle, mining engineer and geologist with the Tonopah Mining Co.

INVENTORY

1. [Kennecott Copper Corporation Beatson Mine, Latouche, Alaska as viewed from water.]

2. [George C. Hazelet on horse in front of government barn on trail to Copper River between Tiekel and Ernestine, 1903. Levensaler photo.]

3. [Susitna River near its mouth and two log houses.]

4. [Latouche Island, Prince William Sound, with several buildings.]

5. [Copper River and Prince William Sound. Breaking in the pack horses in Valdez in front of Amy and Woods barn. Man in derby hat is J.D.A. Smith, representing John Hays Hammond, next is H.V. Winchell, famous geologist.]

6. [Kodiak homes viewed from beach with water foreground. 1908?]

7. [Kodiak from the waterfront, 1908.]

8. [Copper River and Prince William Sound, Looking up McKinley Street in front of St. Elian Hotel, Valdez, 1903.]

9. [Fidalgo Bay view from Fidalgo Copper Company, upper camp,]

10. [Solomon Gulch water for hydroelectric plant, Valdez Light Company,]

11. [Ellamar Copper Company, Ellamar, Prince William Sound, Close-up of mine building with railroad trestle in foreground over water,]

12. [Prospect tunnel driven by Lighthall and Rogers in Talkeetna District.]
[Henry Rodger's salmon drying rack for dog food at Talkeetna with Carl Whitham and dog. Levensaler photo.]

[Two men packing timber to upper Nels Tiosevig Camp. 1907.]

[Hand sledding on slope on snow slide on Kennecott Glacier, approaching Glacier Lake, Nel Tjosevig in rear. 1907.]

[Dr. Bellum (Indian Chief) standing second from right with his family. Oscar Fish is next to Bellum. Tent and several sleds in view. C.R. & N. 1904. (Copper River and Northwest Railroad?)]

[Three Man Mining Company, Landlock Bay, Prince William Sound, showing buildings from the water.]

[C.H. Lighthall on McCarthy Creek bar in front of M.L. Camp, Lighthall was foreman. 1911.]

[Vessel S.S. June and a pile driver at dock of Fidalgo Copper Company, Prince William Sound.]

[Teams ready to back to relay freight. W.J. Kelley with gray horse, foreman. C.R. & N. 1904. (Copper River and Northwest Railroad?)]

[Drying and smoking caribou meat for making pemmican. Levensaler and Lighthall camp in Shushana Country. 1906.]

[Two-packed, horse-drawn sleds on Copper River, Lighthall in lead, Gus Nelson with second sled on the way to Nebesna, 1906.]

[Ellamar Mine showing dock, bunkers, shaft and part of coffer dam straight ahead of the waterfront railway trestle, 1909.]

[Ellamar Mine showing dock, bunkers, shaft and part of coffer dam to the right of waterfront railway trestle. 1909.]

[Ellamar Mine showing mine buildings, dock, bunkers, shaft and dam from the waterfront with railway trestle. 1909.]

[Ellamar dock, dump and coffer dam shown from back on the beach. 1909.]

[Cache belonging to Rogers on right with another man sighting rifles from top of cache in Talkeetna country.]

[On the trail in Talkeetna country. Two men with Rodgers on the left, and dog teams. Levensaler photo?]
29 [Dan Creek Mining Company sledding supplies on Nizina River with two laden horse-drawn sleds. 1908. Levensaler photo?]

30 [Three men working at Dan Creek sinking shaft to bedrock to prospect the gravel. 1908.]

31 [Dan Creek Mining Company camp with Ole Berg and the cook outside the tent. 1908.]

32 [Ole Berg building a weir on Boulder Creek to measure the water, Tributary of Dan Creek. 1908,]

33 [Ole Berg and two other men on windless at Boulder Creek, a tributary of Dan Creek. 1908.]

34 [Part of the Dan Creek Mining Company crew in front of mess tent. Cayouette second from left. Jack Williams third from left. 1908,1

35 [Prospectors on their way to Shushana near mouth of Chitistone River. 1913.]

36 [Prospect shaft to bed-rock with Jack Williams at windless handle. Dan Creek area, 1908.]

37 [Valdez, Fourth of July celebration showing horse drawn fire truck. 1908.]

38 [Valdez. Fourth of July celebration showing decorated wagon and people in front of Arcade Restaurant. 1908.]

39 [Valdez. Fourth of July celebration showing men in uniform and flag decorated float filled with people. 1908,]

40 [Valdez. Fourth of July celebration showing decorated wagon in front of Arcade Restaurant on which a group of men participate in an eating contest. 1908.]

41 [Valdez, Fourth of July celebration showing a tug-of-war contest in front of the Alaska Cable Office, 1908.]

42 [Valdez. Fourth of July celebration showing gunny sack race in front of Valdez Cafe. 1908.]

43 [Valdez. Fourth of July celebration showing gunny sack race in front of Valdez Cafe. 1908.]

44 [Valdez. Fourth of July celebration showing wheelbarrow race in front of Valdez Cafe. 1908.]

45 [Valdez, Fourth of July celebration with horse race in town. 1908.]

46 [Valdez baseball game. 1908.]
47 [Valdez. Fourth of July celebration showing large crowd and speaker. 1908.]

48 [Valdez baseball game. 1908.]

49 [Valdez. Fourth of July celebration showing men in uniform next to horse drawn float with Statue of Liberty, 1908.]

50 [Valdez. Fourth of July celebration with horse drawn float of people and flags. 1908.]

51 [Valdez. Fourth of July celebration showing footraces in front of Copper Block Rooms building, 1908.]

52 [Getting ready to pole and line-up the boats on the Chitina River. Purchased the boats from the Indians or George Goodlateau.] (missing 3-82)

53 [Kodiak. 1913-1914, Lighthall photo,]

54 [Picking up freight on bars, after early break-up of Chitina River.]

55 [Icicles in tunnel of Fidalgo Cu. Co.]

56 [Group of small buildings with mountains in background.]

57 [Coyouette's chute to move beach gravel on Dam Creek, sluice box at foot of chute.]

58 [Chief Dr. Bellew, home camp on Copper River.]

59 [Pack train enroute to Shushana, mouth of Chitistone River.]

60 [Fidalgo Copper Co., Upper Camp.]

61 [Small diversion dam for water for sluice boxes; mining in Rex Gulch, Nizina District. 1903.]


pp. 16-21 [letter from Levensaler to W.E. Dunkle, 1953.]

pp. 22-46 ["Economic Geology and History of the Copper River District, Alaska" by W. E. Dunkle]

pp. 64-69 [transcribed interview conducted by Henry Carlisle, mining engineer and geologist with the Tonopah Mining Co., with Levensaler in 1959.]

http://www.library.alaska.gov/hist/hist_docs/finding_aids/PCA159.pdf
63 Verso: Some mud holes on the trail between Tiekel and Ernestine, L.A. Levensaler standing by last horse. Levensaler photo, 1903.

64 Verso: Our pack train headed for Ernestine divide. Typical country on the trail from Valdez. 1903. Levensaler photo, 1903.


66 Verso: A.J. Huneke, Supt. Of operations, in doorway of cabin in Rex Gulch. He and I (Levensaler) bunked together. I was the engineer. Levensaler photo, 1904.

67 Verso: J.D.A. Smith on top of boulder, moraine of Kennecott Glacier. Levensaler photo, 1903.

68 Verso: Looking up Rex Gulch, Chitnina Creek District, Nizina area. Levensaler photo, 1903.

69 Verso: Landing mail and passengers from SS JAMES DOLLAR at Fort Liscum, Valdez Bay. Levensaler photo, 1903.

70 Verso: Our crew lining boats up Chitina River after it cleared of ice.

71 Verso: Relay camp on trail to Nizina. Working crew. 4th from right, Gus Nelson, Butte miner. 5th from right, George Hazelet, master of transportation. Levensaler photo, 1904.

72 Verso: Gates City on Cleary Creek, Fairbanks area.